



Algeria Focuses on Renewable Energy EarthVision Reports

02/29/00

ALGIERS, Algeria, February 29, 2000 - Algeria's new initiative aimed at increasing the development and implementation of new technologies has also targeted alternative energy sources such as photovoltaic solar, thermal solar, wind and biomass.

According to the Panafrican News Agency Abdelhadi Benzaghoul, Algeria's secretary general of the ministry of energy, told a workshop gathering private businesspeople, industrial operators, bankers and researchers of the critical need to get new energy technologies out of the lab and into the hands of the commercial sector. Benzaghoul noted policies are in place to accept the new technologies but the tools are still lacking. Therefore, panel discussions with Algerian specialists focused on the development renewable energy technologies and their promotion at national level.

Commercialization opportunities, business capacity building processes, the motivation and training required to set up a business and take advantage of incentives and grants were also discussed.

Also at the meeting were representatives from the UN Development Programme (UNDP). Commenting on the need for more renewable energy technologies was Olivier Ranaivondrambola - assistant UNDP resident representative. According to Ranaivondrambola, alternative forms of energy, and their widespread use, were some of the most important issues in the current millennium.

The UNDP, he said, has for several years now, been committed to the mobilization of the necessary human and financial resources to establish a sustainable human development that is attainable only if communities get basic resources and energy.